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Canadian International
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[COUNTRY PROFILE]

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Backgrounder

INDIA



Canada



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COUNTRY PROFILE

Official name	Republic of India
Capital	New Delhi
Topography	Northern Himalaya range, plains, southern plateau, coastal lowlands
Climate	Monsoon-tropical
Principal crops	sugar cane, groundnuts, rapeseed, sesame seed, tea
Resources	coal, iron ore, bauxite, manganese, hydro, oil and gas
Official language	English and Hindi
Other languages spoken	Sanskrit, Sindhi, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Bihari, Rajasthani, Tamil, Telegu
Ethnic groups	Indo-Nordics, Dravidians, Mongoloids, Parsis, Jews, Anglo-Indians
Religions	Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism
Date of independence	August 15, 1947

COMPARATIVE DATA

	<u>INDIA</u>	<u>CANADA</u>
Area	3,288,000 km ²	9,976,000 km ²
Population (1983)	733.2 million	24.3 million
Population density	221 persons/km ²	2.4 persons/km ²
Urbanization	24%	75%
Population growth rate (1973-1983)	2.3%	1.2%
Life expectancy at birth (1983)	55 years	76 years
Infant mortality rate (1983)	93 per 1,000 live births	9 per 1,000 live births
Daily per capita calorie supply as percentage of requirement (1982)	93%	129%

	<u>INDIA</u>	<u>CANADA</u>
Adult literacy rate	30%	99%
Primary school enrolment (1982) as % of age group:		
Total	79%	104%
boys	93%	105%
girls	64%	103%
Percentage of labor force in:		
agriculture	71%	5%
industry	13%	29%
services	16%	66%
% of population of under 15 (1983)	40.9%	23.2%
Gross national product per capita (1983)	US \$250	US \$12,310
GNP average annual growth rate (1965-1983)	1.5%	2.5%
Inflation rate (1973-1983)	7.7%	9.4%
External public debt as % of GNP	11.2%	1.35%
Debt service as % of GNP	6.7%	4.96%
Current account balance	US\$ - 2,780 million	US\$ 1,380 million
Principal exports	crude oil, engineering goods, diamonds, tea, leather, cotton fabrics, rice, spices	
Principal imports	petroleum, cement, steel, fertilizers, edible oils	
Exports to Canada	textiles, tea, coffee, carpets, footwear	
Imports from Canada	potash, sulphur, pulp and paper, asbestos, steel, aluminum, zinc	
Principal trading partners	United States, U.K., West Germany, Soviet Union and Japan.	

COUNTRY PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

Founded initially on the Commonwealth connection, Indo-Canadian relations have been friendly and have featured a tradition of straightforward and constructive dialogue. Canada's political relations with India, a major power in the non-aligned group of countries, have covered the broad spectrum of international affairs. Through the years, Canada and India have worked together closely in the Commonwealth and in multilateral fora towards the achievement of mutual interests. Canada's positive role in North-South relations has been particularly appreciated by India.

Cultural relations

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, a consortium of fourteen Canadian universities and the National Library of Canada, represents a unique endeavour for promoting mutual understanding between the two countries. Founded in 1968 with the support of the Indian and Canadian governments, the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute is a non-governmental organization devoted primarily to academic exchanges.

It has successfully developed programs of fellowships, summer study, visiting lecturers and library support to broaden the study of Indian affairs in Canada and, more recently, the study of Canadian affairs in India. These activities bring students and professors from Canada and India together, which provides them with a deeper understanding of one another's environments. As such, the Shastri Institute is a main vehicle for cultural and academic relations between Canada and India.

The Indian Community in Canada

There is a substantial (250,000) community of Indian origin in Canada, making India Canada's third largest source of non-refugee immigrants. These immigrants have brought with them skills which have benefitted Canada and have helped to enrich the Canadian cultural mosaic.

Economic Relations

Remarkable strides have been made since independence. Although India is seen primarily as a desperately poor nation, it is a major industrial power. Its industrial capability ranges from the manufacture of machine tools to sophisticated electronics. It is also one of seven countries of the world which have launched their own satellites.

Trade and Investment

The development of Canada-India trade relations dates from the early years of India's independence. Indo-Canadian trade has grown from \$68 million in 1950 to \$615 million in 1984.

Canadian exports to India rose from \$31 million in 1950 to \$468 million in 1984. Traditionally, our trade with India has been in the form of primary and semi-processed commodities such as potash, sulphur, pulp and paper, asbestos, steel, aluminum and zinc, representing 86 per cent of total exports to India in 1984. Manufactured goods, machinery and equipment comprise the remaining 14 per cent.

Imports from India have increased and diversified steadily, reaching \$147 million in 1984. Principal items are textiles, tea, coffee, carpets, and footwear.

The Indo-Canadian trade relationship has become closer in recent years. Interest in industrial cooperation between the two countries is increasing in such areas as power, communications, electronics, agro-industries and mining.

Recent liberalization of the Indian economy has provided a more favourable climate for private investment. India's sophisticated industrial base, coupled with a skilled and sizeable labor force, provides ample opportunities for Canadian partnership and joint ventures in India.

The Canada-India Business Council

In the light of these developments, interested Canadian firms decided to establish the Canada-India Business Council in July 1982 to promote and develop a closer trading and investment relationship between Canada and India. The membership of the Council is composed of manufacturers and resource and service industries, ranging from medium to large firms.

Since 1983, the Council has organized three trade missions to India. The focus of these visits was on the transport and high technology sectors.

To further Canada-India business contacts, the Council has signed a joint cooperation protocol with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the largest and most influential business organization in India.

In addition, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, which also serves on the Board of Directors of the Business Council, signed an industrial cooperation protocol with the Association of Indian and Engineering Industry.

These initiatives enhance Canadian business representation in India and provide opportunities to discuss and improve bilateral relations.

INDO-CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: 35 Years of Development Cooperation with India

Canada and India have had a long-standing relationship in development cooperation efforts. Development assistance to India dates from the 1950 Colombo Conference of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers which launched the Colombo Plan. Official development assistance to India is administered by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

CIDA contributed \$50 million to two major power projects initiated in the 1950s and 1960s, which have expanded over the years to meet the growing energy requirements of a large area of southern India and contribute substantially to their agricultural and industrial development.

Since the inception of the Canadian aid program to India in 1951, Canada has provided \$1.8 billion worth of development assistance to India in loans and grants, making India the largest recipient of direct Canadian assistance.

The objectives of Canadian development assistance to India are to assist the economic and social development of India in accordance with Indian priorities and Canadian abilities, and to lay the basis for continuing economic and commercial relations between the two countries in a manner which will be mutually beneficial.

Canadian resources are directed to India through different channels. CIDA supports bilateral, or government-to-government, projects with the Indian government. Through its Special Programs Branch, CIDA supports the activities of numerous Canadian and Indian non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as voluntary aid groups, cooperatives and universities. Canadian businesses interested in starter studies and joint ventures benefit from CIDA's Business Cooperation Programs. Major multilateral institutions such as UNICEF active in India are also funded by Canada through CIDA.

BILATERAL ASSISTANCE

India was the largest recipient of Canadian bilateral or government-to-government aid between 1969 and 1978, averaging \$90 million per annum, with approximately half of this amount in food aid. Bilateral disbursements since 1969 have ranged from a high of \$103 million in 1970/1971 to \$34 million in 1978/1979. This decrease reflects the decision to freeze aid programming immediately after India's explosion of a nuclear device in 1974.

In the early 1970s, India achieved significant increases in its food production. Cooperation between India and Canada was directed to assisting India's efforts toward self-reliance in the supply of food grains, edible oil and fertilizers.

In April 1978, India's program status was reviewed, which permitted CIDA to explore a wider variety of assistance to India's development efforts, including oil and gas exploration, communications, transportation, mining and non-nuclear power generation.

As a result, India-Canada ties have expanded in the last five years. Bilateral aid disbursements to India have been growing steadily, from \$34.6 million in 1980/81 to over \$70.0 million in 1985/86.

Canada's assistance program to India has placed strong emphasis on energy, agriculture, irrigation, food aid and industrial or agricultural commodities. Lines of credit make loans available to India to help remove infrastructural bottlenecks in the oil and gas, mineral and power sectors. Current projects include the Idukki Dam project, which provides Canadian equipment and consulting services for the installation of three turbine generators which will double the existing generating capacity of this dam to 780 megawatts; a drylands agricultural research project which helps to stabilize and improve agricultural production in rain-fed areas of India; and the Chamera Dam project, the largest bilateral aid project ever undertaken by the Government of Canada. For Chamera, the Export Development Corporation (EDC) and CIDA have joined to provide financing totalling \$650 million for a 540 megawatt hydro-electric power project to meet increasing agricultural and industrial requirements.

Substantial Canadian aid has taken the form of industrial or agricultural commodities. Industrial commodities were provided as balance of payments support, and included minerals, synthetic rubber, fertilizer, newsprint and asbestos. Food aid, the largest contribution, included wheat and edible oils. Counterpart funds generated by the sale of these commodities have been employed on development projects involving Canadian expertise, material and equipment for construction of new facilities in India such as communicating systems and an electrical generating plant.

Agriculture plays a central role in the Indian economy because of its direct relationship to improving rural poverty. About 80 per cent of India's population lives in rural areas; it employs 70 per cent of the total Indian labor force; and it is a fundamental source of food supply in a country of 750 million people. Although India has achieved food self-sufficiency in the last few years, problems in irrigation continue to hinder agricultural output.

Energy supply for irrigation, fertilizer production and so on plays a major role in agricultural and industrial development. Proven Canadian expertise in this area has led to welcome Canadian participation in Indian projects. However, shortages of power are increasingly impeding the growth of industry and the extension of irrigation. India's hydro power generation potential is enormous but not sufficiently exploited. Therefore, emphasis will have to be placed on a more effective use of existing resources.

Accordingly, the current Canadian aid program to India is built upon previous Canadian involvement where both energy and agriculture are maintained as leading sectors. The objectives of the program are to improve energy efficiency, production and conservation; to increase agricultural productivity; and to promote the growth and strengthening of Indian institutions.

Food Aid

Canadian food aid is provided to developing countries under country-to-country, or bilateral, agreements, through the multilateral channel of the World Food Program (WFP), and by NGOs.

India has virtually achieved self-sufficiency in food grains. The only agricultural product of which India is chronically short and which it must import is edible oil, which CIDA provides through its bilateral program. Through the oilseeds development project, canola oil is supplied to the National Dairy Development Board of India (NDDB), which will use the income generated by its sale to support local production of indigenous oilseeds and to support associated marketing and processing operations on a cooperative basis.

Mission-Administered Funds

Canadian missions in developing countries respond to requests for assistance from local community groups in need of funds for small projects. India receives the maximum allowance of \$350,000 for these mission-administered funds projects (MAF). MAF projects in general are directed almost entirely at the rural population to meet basic human needs. The fund has proven to be an effective method of assisting grass roots development.

In 1984/1985, 12 projects located in nine different states of the country were funded. Seven projects were directed towards agriculture, irrigation, animal husbandry and raw silk production, two projects for self-employment, two towards training for employment and one for preventive health care.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

CIDA's Special Programs Branch (SPB) supports the development initiatives of the non-governmental, institutional and private sectors. One feature of most programs supported by this Branch is that they match contributions in cash and in kind raised by non-governmental participants in Canada and in developing countries, so that the value of a project is often much greater than the CIDA contribution alone. SPB funding for India during the 1984/1985 period approximated \$6 million, supporting 400 projects.

India is currently receiving development assistance through the following programs of CIDA's Special Programs Branch:

Non-Governmental Organizations

The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Program encourages and supports the grass-roots development work of Canadian NGOs and their Indian counterparts. In 1984/1985, approximately 55 Canadian NGOs received financial support for 354 projects in India, involving a total CIDA commitment of \$17.3 million. Disbursements during that same period were \$5.3 million. India is the largest recipient of assistance delivered through CIDA's NGO channel worldwide.

A major reason for this high volume of activity is that there are an estimated 12,000 indigenous NGOs in India. Over the past 15 years, 75 Canadian NGOs have established development links with Indian groups. The main sectoral thrusts of these NGOs have been education, community development, health and population, food production and water.

Examples of projects supported through this program include agricultural and community development by the Aga Khan Foundation of Canada and the Society for the Promotion of Wasteland Development, human resources development through YMCA of Canada, and an eye health care program throughout India undertaken by Operation Eyesight Universal.

South Asia Partnership

In addition to the Asia Partnership for Human Development (APHD), the Indian NGO community benefits from another regional network known as the South Asia Partnership (SAP). This creative Canadian initiative is primarily geared to strengthening links between Canadian and South Asian NGOs and to establishing Canadian relationships with newly emerging indigenous NGOs. SAP is a grouping of 15 Canadian NGOs and a variety of NGOs from India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and, more recently, from Pakistan and Nepal. SAP is a co-operative means for NGOs to reach the poorest people and to help them help themselves. In 1984/1985, SAP supported 95 projects of local indigenous NGOs operating at the grass roots level in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. CIDA has supported these projects with a total contribution of \$1.5 million, of which over 50 per cent has been directed to India. Projects have been conducted in community development, agriculture, education, health, water supply, and sanitation.

Institutional Cooperation and Development Services

The Institutional Cooperation and Development Services Division (ICDS) supports joint ventures between universities, colleges, unions, cooperatives and professional associations in Canada and developing countries. In 1984/1985, ICDS committed over \$3.8 million to 26 projects.

The major areas of ICDS support in India are in educational institutions and cooperatives. Projects supported through ICDS include the training in video techniques related to farmer education for scientists and field extension workers at the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology through

techniques developed by Memorial University of Newfoundland, and a multi-cooperative marketing project to set up rice mills and storage facilities for member cooperatives undertaken by the Cooperative Development Foundation in collaboration with Samakya in Hyderabad. In addition, ICDS has contributed to the India program of Canada World Youth.

International Non-Governmental Organizations

International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) add a dimension to CIDA's development assistance activities through their role in strengthening local and regional capacities. Through INGO, CIDA offers support on a global basis to organizations with projects or programs in many countries. The INGO program has supported seven international and regional INGOs in India, including the Asian Institute for Rural Development, the World Alliance of YMCAs, the Planned Parenthood Federation and Innovations et réseaux pour le développement (IRED). Projects have been primarily in the areas of rural/community-based health care, leadership training and institution-building.

In 1984/1985, the division supported 11 projects with a total INGO contribution of \$670,520. Seven of these projects were in collaboration with the Asian Institute for Rural Development. Support for the Association of Sarva Seva Farms helped landless laborers reach self-sufficiency through the development of communal lands; the establishment of rearing and service centres for the preparation of silkworm eggs; the provision of training for sericulture farmers and extension workers; and the establishment of self-help people's organizations and programs to respond to local needs of rural communities.

Management for Change

The Management for Change Program (MFC) stimulates and supports innovative ways of strengthening the capability of developing countries to manage their resources productively and efficiently. In doing so it enables senior executives in Canada and developing countries to work together and learn from each other's experience and ideas. Since program interventions are generally aimed at the regional rather than the national level, India's specific activities have been limited. However, the program has sponsored linkages such as: the participation in 1983 of senior representatives of the Canadian Chambers of Commerce at the International Conference of Chief Executives, held in Goa, India and of senior Indian executives at the Joint Executive Seminar series of the Canadian Niagara Institute.

The MFC is also exploring the possibility of supporting the Indian Institute of Management at Ahmedabad to develop a program for women managers from Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and other countries to benefit from the expertise developed at the International Management Institute-India (IIMA).

Voluntary Agricultural Development Aid

This program constitutes a federal-provincial effort to combat hunger in the Third World. In 1984/1985, VADA contributed \$66,690 to 5 projects undertaken by three organizations. These projects include a landless people's resettlement scheme in Kadiri, Mysore; shipment of foodstuffs; and an integrated rural community development project in 30 development blocks in the state of Meghalaya.

BUSINESS COOPERATION

Industrial Cooperation Program

The Industrial Cooperation Program (INC) of CIDA's Business Cooperation Branch promotes investment, trade, joint ventures and the transfer of technology. Financial assistance is provided to Canadian firms to cover front-end study costs that determine the technical and economic viability of projects. Between 1979/1980 and 1984/1985, the INC program funded 117 projects in India. Disbursements exceeded \$3.0 million on approved projects valued at some \$4.7 million. India is the fastest-growing industrial cooperation program in CIDA.

Among these projects, starter studies were conducted in hydrogen plants, hauling equipment, tire retreading equipment, oil and gas, and communication equipment. There were also viability studies for vaccine production, assembly of telegraph multiplexers, nickel production, water treatment and telecommunications equipment. Canadian Project Preparation Facility (CPPF) funds were used for hydro-electric projects, steel mills, railway telecommunications systems and fishing industry projects.

To facilitate dialogue between Canadian firms and their Indian counterparts, INC has sponsored three Canadian business missions in India since 1983. Thomas Bata, Chairman of the Canada-India Business Council (CIBC) and Bata Limited, led a joint mission with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI). The two other missions focused on cooperation in the oil and gas sector and on computer products and services. From January 1981 to October 1984, there were 10 Canadian collaborations approved by the Indian government, of which 6 received INC support. Some 12 Canadian companies have already indicated their intention to pursue discussions with potential Indian partners.

With the assistance of INC, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Canada-India Business Council have recently completed an Investment Guide on India, designed to assist Canadians in commercial initiatives in India. The guide addresses subjects such as the investment climate in India, business opportunities, taxation, export-import regulations, the role of an agent and other subjects of interest to the Canadian private sector.

MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Canada is a substantial contributor to major multilateral institutions and agencies active in India. Multilateral assistance involves the pooling of resources from member countries to international organizations, which in turn provide financial (in the form of loans and grants) and technical assistance to recipient countries for their development programs. Canadian funds are channelled to India through the World Bank, also known as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and its associated lending agencies such as the International Development Association for soft loan financing, agencies of the United Nations and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC).

The major multilateral institutions active in India to which Canada contributes are described below:

World Bank Group

India has traditionally been the largest recipient of International Development Association (IDA) funding, receiving 40 per cent of the institution's lending. Although this situation is changing as more bank resources flow to China, the World Bank Group program in India is currently the largest of any donor (multilateral and bilateral) active in India. Between 1980/1984, India received World Bank loans totalling US \$5.7 billion and US \$4,628.3 million from IDA. The World Bank program has emphasized agriculture, water supply, fertilizer production, energy, telecommunications and transport; however, the Bank has substantial lending in oil and gas development, urban investment and family planning. In November 1980, India received the largest loan in Bank history - \$400 million for the Bombay High Offshore Natural Gas Development project.

Canada is the ninth largest shareholder in IBRD and the fifth largest contributor in terms of total subscriptions to IDA. Canadian advances to IDA have averaged \$159.7 million a year over the four years from 1980/1981 to 1983/1984; capital subscriptions to the IBRD amounted to \$29.0 million in 1982-1983 and \$50.29 million in 1983/1984.

World Food Program (WFP)

The World Food Program (WFP) is the channel for food aid financed through the U.N. system. Its assistance is provided in support of economic and social development but is allocated strictly on a project basis and to meet emergency food needs.

India is the largest recipient of WFP resources in the Asian region. WFP is principally active in the areas of food and nutrition, supporting activities such as maternal and child health centres and food-for-work projects such as reforestation and construction of irrigation canals. The program also funds land development and improvement projects, resettlement projects and cooperatives. Three forestry projects in India (located in Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh States) were approved in 1983 for a total of US \$84 million.

In 1985-86, Canada is contributing \$135 million to the WFP and \$18.5 million to the International Emergency Food Reserve. There are currently 12 WFP projects operating in India for a total value of \$312.7 million.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) came into existence in 1976 with the primary objective of increasing agricultural production. It mobilizes resources on concessional terms for the expansion and improvement of food production systems and the strengthening of related policies and institutions, with special emphasis on small farmers and landless laborers in developing countries.

IFAD approved 5 loans in India totalling US \$163.8 million during the 1979/1983 period, making India IFAD's largest recipient. Canada has contributed \$42.0 million to IFAD from 1980 to 1985. Projects have all been in the water and irrigation sector. Examples of projects funded in India include provision of tubewells and irrigation facilities, and improvement of drainage to assist farmers. To date, the IFAD program has concentrated in the Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan states of India.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

The India program represents UNICEF's largest, totalling approximately US \$153 million over the 1979/1983 period. Assistance focused on health, water and sanitation, nutrition and village technology, formal and non-formal education, and integrated child development services including feeding, immunization and primary health care. The UNICEF office in India is the largest anywhere in the world outside its New York headquarters.

Projects funded in India include water supply in Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and the Northern States; nutrition activities such as horticulture, poultry raising, fish-farming and nutrition education for women; the establishment of a food processing plant in Hyderabad and other small-scale food processing centres in rural areas; and formal and non-formal education, including adult functional literacy. Canada's contribution to UNICEF averaged \$11.99 million a year from 1980/1981 to 1984/1985.

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

The UNDP is the central mechanism within the UN development system for the financing and programming of technical cooperation. These projects are often executed through more specialized UN agencies. During the 1982/1986 cycle, UNDP spending in India is expected to reach US \$258 million; Canadian contributions are expected to average approximately \$52.4 million annually during this period. Sectoral concentrations are in agriculture (irrigation projects and groundwater surveys); industry and commerce; health and education (technical and vocational education); and science and technology with a focus on computers, including remote sensing.

United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)

The UNFPA spending in India averaged US \$15.0 million a year from 1980 to 1984. The program covered all aspects of population assistance: basic data collection, population dynamics, the formulation and implementation of population policies, family planning, and population education and communication.

The UNFPA program in India dates from 1974 and has focused on training of personnel and improving facilities for maternal and child health and family planning services; improving voluntary sterilization and contraceptive supplies; developing programs in the organized sector (primarily trade unions); and designing of co-operative projects with community and non-governmental organizations. From 1980/1981 to 1984/1985, Canada's contributions to UNFPA's worldwide programs have averaged \$9.13 million a year.

Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC)

Canada is the largest contributor (\$14.6 million in 1984/1985) to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) program, which is the principal mechanism for technical assistance within the Commonwealth. Since 1978, CFTC's program in India has concentrated on export market development (handicrafts, engineering items, hand tools, electrical equipment, garment manufacture) through advisory services, research and workshops.

Canada contributes close to 40 per cent of all CFTC contributions, averaging \$12.2 million yearly over the five-year period from 1980/1981 to 1984/1985.

International Humanitarian Assistance

Canada makes regular contributions to international humanitarian, refugee and emergency relief organizations. Regular program funds are provided for the operating costs of four UN refugee and relief agencies and of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Additional funds are granted in direct response to emergency situations caused by natural and man-made disasters and civil strife, and to alleviate the hardships of refugees.

The Canadian contribution for humanitarian assistance in India in 1982/1983 was comprised of \$150,000 to Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) and \$45,000 to the Canadian Council of Churches in response to an appeal to help flood victims in India, while \$285,000 was provided to the League of Red Cross Societies (LRCS) and \$75,000 to CLWR for the relief of drought victims. In 1984/1985 Canada contributed \$50,000 to LRCS for the victims of eye damage resulting from the Bhopal plant leak in India.

International Development Research Centre

The International Development Research Center (IDRC) is an independent corporation created by the Parliament of Canada in 1970 to stimulate and support scientific and technical research by developing countries for their own benefit. The major sectors in which IDRC operates are: agriculture, food and nutrition sciences; health sciences; social sciences; information sciences; and communications.

IDRC has 6 regional offices; among them, the South Regional Office located in New Delhi and opened in January 1984, coordinates IDRC activities in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the Maldives.

IDRC currently has 48 active projects in India, spread among 30 recipient organizations, for a total value of \$7.4 million. This accounts for about half of the total value of current projects in the South Asia Region. The main sectors of intervention are: agriculture, focusing on minor millets, oilseeds and post-harvest technology; health sciences research, concentrating on the development of an anti-pregnancy vaccine; research in the social sciences, covering a wide range of issues and sectors; and information projects such as the development of information centres on sorghum and millets and on development policy models.

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